

**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

**APEC Corporate Brochure, 2001**

**APEC Secretariat**

**2001**

## APEC Brochure 2001

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was established in 1989 in response to the growing interdependence among Asia-Pacific economies. From its modest beginning as an informal Ministerial-level dialogue group with 12 members, APEC has become a formidable regional forum, especially with the introduction of the annual informal Economic Leaders' Meeting in 1993. Its goal is *to advance economic dynamism and sense of community within the Asia-Pacific region*. Today there are 21 member economies comprising some 2.5 billion people, a combined gross domestic product of over US\$18 trillion in 1999 and over 47 percent of world trade. APEC has established itself as the primary regional vehicle for promoting open trade and practical economic and technical cooperation.

## APEC Objectives

The member economies represent the rich diversity of the region as well as differing levels of economic development. Despite such differences there is a growing sense of common purpose and cooperation aimed at sustained regional and world growth.

APEC has come a long way since 1989. It has built steadily on the efforts of the past and looks forward to further progress. The initial years of APEC were focused largely on exchanges of views and project-based initiatives. The concerns were simply to advance the process of Asia-Pacific economic cooperation and to promote a positive conclusion to the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations.

### Blake Island, 1993

APEC Economic Leaders met for the first time in November, 1993, when they held informal discussions at Blake Island near Seattle. They envisioned a community of Asia-Pacific economies, based on the spirit of openness and partnership; which would make cooperative efforts to address the challenges of: change; promote the free exchange of goods, services and investment; and work towards broadly-based economic growth, higher living and educational standards and sustainable growth that respects the natural environment.

In subsequent annual meetings, APEC Ministers and Leaders further refined this vision and launched mechanisms to translate it into action. In 1994 in Bogor, the vision of an open trading system became the very ambitious goal of *“free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2010 for developed member economies and 2020 for developing ones”*.

### Osaka, 1995

In Osaka, APEC Leaders adopted the Osaka Action Agenda (OAA), which firmly established the three pillars of APEC activities: trade and investment liberalization, business facilitation, and economic and technical cooperation.

### Manila, 1996

The Manila Action Plan for APEC (MAPA), adopted by the APEC Leaders in November 1996, compiled members' initial individual action plans to achieve the objectives outlined in Bogor. APEC Leaders also instructed that high priority be given to the following six

areas of economic and technical cooperation: developing human capital; fostering safe and efficient capital markets; strengthening economic infrastructure; harnessing technologies of the future; promoting environmentally sustainable growth; and encouraging the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Vancouver, 1997

In Vancouver APEC Leaders recognized members' efforts to improve the commitments in their Individual Action Plans (IAPs) and reaffirmed their intention to update these annually. APEC Leaders endorsed their Ministers' agreement that action should be taken with respect to early voluntary sectoral liberalization (EVSL) in 15 sectors, with nine to be advanced throughout 1998 and implementation to begin in 1999. APEC Leaders welcomed the progress of APEC fora in involving business, academics and other experts, women and youth and encouraged them to continue these efforts. APEC Leaders endorsed the Vancouver Framework for Enhanced Public-Private Partnership for Infrastructure Development.

Kuala Lumpur, 1998

In Kuala Lumpur APEC Leaders reaffirmed their confidence in the strong economic fundamentals and prospects for recovery of the economies of the Asia-Pacific. They agreed to pursue a cooperative growth strategy to end the financial crisis. They pledged efforts to strengthen: social safety nets; financial systems; trade and investment flows; the scientific and technological base; human resources development; economic infrastructure; and business and commercial links, so as to provide the base and set the pace for sustained growth into the 21st century. APEC Leaders also welcomed the Ministers' decision to seek an EVSL agreement with non-APEC members at the World Trade Organisation.

The APEC Leaders adopted the Kuala Lumpur Action Program on Skills Development with the objective of contributing towards sustainable growth and equitable development while reducing economic disparities and improving the social well-being of the people, through skills upgrading/improvement.

Auckland, 1999

At their meeting in September 1999 in Auckland, APEC Leaders agreed that the performance and prospects of the APEC economies had improved, but they were not complacent about the risks to recovery. Accordingly they pledged to strengthen markets and improve the international framework governing trade and investment flows. APEC Leaders also put people and their prosperity at the forefront of their discussions, welcoming the more active participation of women and the business sector in APEC's work.

### **Business/Private Sector Involvement**

Key features that set APEC apart from other international organizations are its commitment to facilitating business and that it regularly brings the business/private sector into a wide range of APEC activities. Business has always been the primary force behind the dynamic growth in the Asia-Pacific region and the continuing globalization of business means that the APEC economies must develop region-wide practices and policies to encourage the free flow of goods, services, investment and capital within the region. Therefore business is a key constituency for APEC both regionally and in individual

member economies. APEC aims to achieve both concrete and pragmatic results that will benefit business, contribute to increased income and create jobs in the region.

. Recognizing that business expertise and resources can help APEC achieve its objectives, the business/private sector already participates in many of APEC's working groups and helps shape the policy dialogue in partnership with member economy officials. APEC Economic Leaders receive advice from the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) established in late 1995. Such involvement is important, ensuring that APEC's work addresses real problems and proposes practical solutions and a major APEC goal is to continue to expand the essential role of business in the APEC process.

### **APEC Business Advisory Council**

In 1995 APEC Economic Leaders established a permanent council composed of up to three senior business people from each member economy to provide advice on the implementation of APEC action plans and on other specific business/private sector priorities. Chairmanship of ABAC rotates each year according to which economy chairs APEC. The 2001 ABAC Chair is Mr Qin Xiao, Vice Chairman of the China International Trust and Investment Corporation of the People's Republic of China.

ABAC has presented five published reports to APEC Leaders on the theme of "APEC Means Business," containing specific recommendations for improving regional business conditions and expanding trade and investment. ABAC's 2000 report focused on proposals to help APEC member economies stay on track with trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, build stronger financial systems, and improve access to new opportunities through technological progress. Specific ABAC recommendations targeted: the growing issue of non-tariff measures; implementing an APEC food system; promoting business mobility; removing impediments to standards and conformance; developing bond markets and an Institute of Directors Network; developing action plans for e-commerce; and harnessing the Internet for human resources development. ABAC members have the opportunity to discuss their recommendations at their annual dialogue with APEC Leaders and at various ministerial meetings throughout the year.

## **APEC Activities in 2000**

With the emerging signs of economic recovery in the region, APEC Economic Leaders, in their meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan in November 2000, mapped out ways of preserving, strengthening and further opening markets as well as sustaining economic recovery in APEC. Aiming to deliver on the various agreements, to the people and the diverse communities that APEC serves, they decided to address the challenges of the New Economy in the following areas:

### *Managing Globalization.*

APEC Leaders directed their Ministers to reinvigorate APEC's programs in economic and technical cooperation and to continue to work in international forums to help shape the global economy and provide a more secure and stable financial environment.

### *The Action Agenda for the New Economy.*

This agenda brings together all of the elements related to the New Economy that APEC has been working on for some time: the e-Commerce Readiness Assessment, paperless trading, and building capacity in both people and institutions. APEC Leaders instructed their Ministers to expand and develop the agenda to create an environment for

strengthening: market structures, institutions and infrastructure investment, technology development ; and building both human capacity and entrepreneurship development.

#### *Creating New Opportunities.*

APEC Leaders committed themselves to working to ensure all people of urban, provincial, and rural communities in every APEC member economy have individual or community-based access to the information and services offered by the Internet by 2010. As a first step, APEC Leaders pledged to triple the number of people within the APEC region with such access by 2005.

#### *Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System.*

APEC Leaders reiterated the need to expeditiously launch a new WTO round. They agreed that a balanced and broad-based agenda responding to the interests and concerns of all WTO members should be formalized and finalized as soon as possible in 2001 and that a round be launched in 2001.

#### *Making APEC Matter More.*

In addition to urging APEC to expand its work in outreach, APEC Leaders instructed their Ministers to ensure that the new “electronic-Individual Action Plans” be fully operational in 2001 and updated and improved as an electronic tool in future years. (These IAPs are the basic road maps by which each APEC member charts its progress toward the Bogor goals of trade and investment liberalization. The new electronic version has greatly enhanced their accessibility and usefulness for business.)

## **APEC Themes for 2001**

As APEC enters its second decade, it faces some major new challenges, which have generated a sense of urgency and called for greater cohesion and increased strength of commitment. To meet the challenges, the following theme for APEC 2001 has been set: “**Meeting New Challenges in the New Century: Achieving Common Prosperity through Participation and Cooperation**”. The theme embodies the following sub-themes:

- Sharing the Benefits of Globalization and the New Economy;
- Advancing Trade and Investment; and
- Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth.

The theme is designed to transcend the traditional boundary between trade and investment liberalization and facilitation (TILF) and economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH), to build on the existing ECOTECH Agenda, to revive the momentum of progress in APEC’s core mission of trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and to foster a favorable macro-economic environment for the sustainable growth of the regional economy.

## **How APEC Operates**

### **Ministerial and Senior Officials’ Meetings**

APEC operates by consensus. In 1991, members committed themselves to conducting their activities and work programs on the basis of open dialogue with equal respect for the views of all participants. The APEC Chair, which rotates annually among members, is

responsible for hosting the annual ministerial meeting of foreign and economic ministers. The People's Republic of China is the APEC Chair for 2001.

In addition to the annual APEC Ministerial Meeting, APEC member economies have hosted a number of other ministerial-level meetings in the following areas: education, energy, environment and sustainable development, finance, human resources development (HRD), regional science and technology cooperation, small and medium enterprises, telecommunications and information industry, trade, transportation, and women.

APEC Senior Officials' Meetings (SOM) are held regularly prior to every ministerial meeting. The SOM makes recommendations to the Ministers and carries out their decisions. It oversees and coordinates, with approval from Ministers, the budgets and work programs of the APEC fora.

### **APEC in Action/APEC Fora**

At each year's Ministerial Meeting, members define and fund work programs for APEC's three committees, one sub-committee, 11 working groups and other APEC fora.

In 1993 APEC Ministers adopted a Declaration on a Trade and Investment Framework to increase economic activity and facilitate the flow of goods and services among member economies. Based on the Declaration, Ministers formed the *Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI)*. The CTI aims to create an APEC perspective on trade and investment issues and to pursue liberalization and facilitation initiatives. The CTI is responsible to senior officials for coordinating and implementing the liberalization and facilitation components of the Osaka Action Agenda, [ital removed] including work on tariffs, non-tariff measures, services, deregulation, dispute mediation, implementation of WTO obligations, investment, customs procedures, standards and conformance, mobility of business people, intellectual property rights, competition policy, government procurement and rules of origin. Activities in these areas are undertaken by the sub-committees and experts' group established under the CTI. The CTI, whose current chair is the United States of America, also played a key role in APEC's development of initiatives for EVSL, review of the IAP process and work to "strengthen markets".

In 2001, the CTI will, in addition to progressing its core activity of implementation and enhancement of the Collective Action Plans (CAPs), be responsible for the review and development of the OAA for use by member economies to show how they intend to achieve Bogor [ital removed] goals and development of a set of non-binding Principles on Trade Facilitation. The CTI will also oversee the implementation of the APEC Strategic Plan on Capacity Building related to the Implementation of WTO Agreements and Cooperation Framework for Strengthening Economic Legal Infrastructure.

The *Economic Committee (EC)* was established by APEC Ministers in November 1994. The EC analyzes economic trends and issues in support of APEC's trade and investment liberalization and facilitation and economic and technical cooperation agendas. The EC presented three major published reports to the Ministerial meeting in November 2000 in Brunei Darussalam, namely: *2000 APEC Economic Outlook*, *APEC Economies beyond the Asian Crisis*, and *Towards Knowledge-based Economies in APEC*.

The *2001 APEC Economic Outlook*, which is being coordinated by Hong Kong, China, will analyze the nexus between financial development and economic growth. This year the EC will also undertake a major research project that will study the issues and policy challenges relating to the New Economy.

The *Budget and Management Committee (BMC)* advises APEC Senior Officials on budgetary, administrative and managerial issues. It assesses and makes recommendations on the budget structure, considers budget requests, drafts the annual APEC budget and examines all questions relating to the APEC budget and budgetary process. In addition, it is empowered by the Senior Officials to monitor and evaluate the operations and overall performance of working groups and make recommendations to the SOM for improved efficiency and effectiveness. The committee holds two regular meetings each year.

The *ECOTECH Sub-Committee of the SOM (ESC)* was established in 1998 to assist the SOM in coordinating and managing APEC's economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) agenda and identifying value-added initiatives for cooperative action. The ESC seeks to advance effective implementation of Part II of the 1995 Osaka Action Agenda, the 1996 Manila Framework for Strengthening Economic Cooperation and Development and other ECOTECH initiatives through consultation with APEC fora and the development of policy management tools and guidelines for projects.

This year, the ESC will develop further the Joint Activities/Dialogue sections of Part II of the Osaka Action Agenda, coordinate work on cross-cutting issues, consider the possibility of establishing Individual Action Plans on ECOTECH and report on the implementation of ECOTECH guidelines and initiatives. The ESC will lead a special coordinating group of HRD representatives, established to develop a human capacity building strategy that would define the objectives, priorities and principles for enabling APEC to respond to the challenges of the new economy. It will also contribute to APEC's outreach programs by highlighting how ECOTECH activities are benefiting member economy governments, the business/private sector and the community.

Following a decision by Ministers in 1999, the Infrastructure Workshop has been re-constituted as the *Group on Economic Infrastructure (GEI)* under the ESC. The GEI will continue to utilize the Public-Private/Business Sector Dialogue process, the "Economic Regulation and Creditworthiness Enhancement" work and the Regional Integration for Sustainable Economies (RISE) initiative to make available to member economies the lessons learnt and best practices in support of policies and frameworks for the provision of infrastructure services. It will also review infrastructure support work undertaken in other fora, notably that relating to sustainable urban development, in order to assess APEC's future role in this field.

The Ad Hoc Policy Level Group on Small and Medium Enterprises (PLGSME), was established in 1995. As a result of the management review, the SOM decided to rename it as the *Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SME)*. The SME oversees activities for SMEs across all APEC fora. There is a consensus in APEC that free trade and economic globalization have implications, challenges and opportunities for SMEs. In 2001, the SME Ministerial Meeting will be held on 29-31 August, in Shanghai, in parallel with the Business Forum, and a joint session will again be held between the Ministerial Meeting and the Business Forum. On the margins of both meetings, an SMEs Achievements Exhibition will be held.

The APEC *Energy Working Group (EWG)* was established in 1990 and obtained its current mandate in 1995 from APEC Ministers and Leaders to implement the energy work program contained in the Osaka Action Agenda[ital removed]. The EWG pursues its objectives through projects undertaken by the Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre and by expert groups on: clean fossil energy; new and renewable energy technologies; mineral

and energy exploration and development; energy data and analysis; energy efficiency and conservation; and the energy regulators' forum..[caps removed]

Energy Ministers met for the fourth time in 2000 in San Diego, to discuss regional energy cooperation and the role of energy in meeting APEC's goals in the 21st century. In their Declaration, Energy Ministers committed themselves to the implementation of priority energy initiatives on a voluntary basis. These initiatives include strategies to enhance energy efficiency and conservation; and disseminate new and renewable energy technologies that would facilitate energy security and regional economic stability.

The *Fisheries Working Group (FWG)*, established in 1991, aims to maximize the economic benefits and sustainability of fisheries resources for all APEC members. Its work complements and contributes to the work of other international and regional fisheries organizations in the Pacific and has related to compliance issues and coordination based on member economy inspection systems, standards, and other requirements aimed at improved seafood inspection regimes in APEC member economies. The working group has been conducting a four-year study of fisheries sector trade and investment liberalization in the areas of tariffs, non-tariff measures, investment measures, and subsidies.

The *Human Resources Development Working Group (HRD)*, established in 1990, is driven by its goal of promoting the well-being of all people in the region through economic growth and development. The working group streamlined its structure in 2000 and reduced its original five networks to three, focusing on capacity building, education, and labour and social protection.

In 2001 the HRD will continue to focus on contributing towards HRD and human capacity building efforts. In addition to pursuing its work program the working group aims to contribute to the development of an APEC-wide human capacity building strategy. It will be working for a successful outcome of the APEC High Level Meeting on Human Capacity Building in Beijing, on 15-16 May 2001, and the fourth Human Resources Development Ministerial Meeting in Kumamoto, on 29-30 September 2001.

The *Industrial Science and Technology Working Group (IST)*, set up in 1990, has recently updated its Action Program to focus on two major initiatives, the APEC Agenda for Science and Technology Cooperation into the 21st Century, and Harnessing Technology for the Future. The 21st century agenda was endorsed by the Leaders at their meeting in Kuala Lumpur in 1998 and the harnessing technology initiative was adopted by the Ministers in Manila in 1996, as one of the six themes for economic and technical cooperation. The harnessing technology initiative has six priorities: improved availability of information; improved human resources development; improved business climate; contribution to sustainable development; enhanced policy dialogue and review; and facilitation of networks and partnership. The IST has been actively implementing many projects under these themes.

The IST has contributed to the APEC goal of sustainable development through the development, in 1997, of the Cleaner Production Strategy and, in early 1998, of an APEC action plan on infectious diseases. In 2001 the IST will further develop its strategy to fight infectious diseases as requested by APEC Leaders at their meeting in 2000.

The *Marine Resource Conservation Working Group (MRC)* was formed in 1990 in recognition of the importance of marine resources to food supply and economic development. The MRC is committed to promoting the sustainability of the marine environment within the APEC Region to ensure continuing socio-economic and environmental benefits. In 2001, the group plans to work on a wide range of issues: the management of red tide and harmful algal bloom; the establishment of an ocean research network and an ocean model and information system; the use of biochemical indicators to assess environmental safety of aquaculture farms; and the development of APEC mechanisms for integrated coastal management. These activities will contribute to capacity building, training and education, the exchange of information, research promotion, and the introduction of technology and expertise. The MRC is also seeking to establish partnerships with the private sector, and to publicize success stories of public-private partnerships or private industries' efforts in enhancing marine environment protection.

The *Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TEL)* was formed in 1990 to address: human resource development; technology transfer and regional cooperation; and telecommunications standardization. The 1995 Seoul Declaration on an Asia Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII), adopted at the first APEC Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications and Information, contains ten core principles aimed at facilitating trade and investment. At the fourth Ministerial Meeting in May 2000 in Mexico, the working group was directed to strengthen the APII, as well as to implement the Reference Framework for Action on Electronic Commerce and the APEC Blueprint for Action on Electronic Commerce. Ministers emphasized the need to promote a pro-competitive environment that will enhance the development of telecommunications and the information infrastructure. Ministers also emphasized the need to bridge the digital divide and enhance reliable and affordable access to the information infrastructure. In response, the working group has developed a *Digital Divide Blueprint for Action*. The Blueprint is an attempt to provide a cohesive plan of action for the TEL to focus and coordinate the activities of its four steering groups to address the issue of the digital divide.

The *Tourism Working Group (TWG)* was formed in 1991 based on the recognition that the tourism industry is of growing importance in promoting economic growth and social development in the Asia-Pacific region. The TWG brings together tourism administrators to share information, exchange views and develop areas of cooperation on trade and policies.

The Seoul Declaration on an APEC Tourism Charter was adopted by APEC Tourism Ministers during their first Ministerial Meeting held on 5-7 July 2000 in Seoul. It recognizes the significant contribution tourism makes to APEC economies and reflects a collective commitment to improve the economic, cultural, social and environmental well being of APEC member economies through tourism. The Seoul Declaration on an APEC Tourism Charter includes measures that:

- will remove impediments to tourism business and investment;
- will increase mobility of visitors and demand for tourism goods and services in the APEC Region;
- sustainably manage tourism outcomes and impacts;
- enhance recognition and understanding of tourism as a vehicle for economic and social development; and
- take into account the "Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC".

The policy goals and processes adopted in the Charter are consistent with the goals for free and open trade and investment established in the *Bogor Declaration* and the general principles for trade liberalization and economic and technical cooperation established in the Osaka Action Agenda.

During its last meeting in Melaka the TWG endorsed an APEC/Pacific Asia Travel Association Code for Sustainable Tourism. The Second APEC Tourism Forum was held in April 2001 in Kuala Lumpur. The Second APEC Tourism Ministerial Meeting will be hosted in Manzanillo, in July 2002.

The *Trade Promotion Working Group (TP)* first met in Seoul in June 1990. Its work centers on trade promotion activities, trade financing, trade skills and training, trade information and networking, and cooperation between the private sector and public agencies, including trade promotion organizations. The TP has provided the business community with information through APEC-Net and publication of an APEC Trade-Show Directory, and held a venture capital workshop and a seminar on credit guarantee systems to exchange views on trade financing. It demonstrates its interest in business engagement through the APEC International Trade Fair and the Asia-Pacific Business Network and its meeting back-to-back with the meetings of the APEC Trade Promotion Organization.

The *Transportation Working Group (TPT)* was established in 1991 with a view to increasing the efficiency and safety of the regional transportation system. It has conducted important initiatives of trade facilitation as well as projects in close cooperation with the business/private sector. The group's Road Transportation Harmonization Project will provide the basis for standards harmonization in the automotive sector in the Asia-Pacific region. The TPT focuses on three main areas: more competitive transportation industry (including infrastructure), safe and environment-friendly transportation systems (including technologies), and human resources development (including training, research and education). Covering all types of transportation systems, the group has published surveys, directories, best practice manuals and databases, as well as an inventory on regional cooperation on oil-spills preparedness and response arrangements. Transportation Ministers met in Washington, D.C. in June 1995 and in Victoria, B.C., in June 1997 and will next meet in October 2001 in Peru.

The *Agricultural Technical Cooperation Experts Group* was established as a formal APEC body in 1996 and renamed as *Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATC)* at the Ministerial Meeting in 2000. By strengthening agricultural technical cooperation, APEC economies are seeking to enhance the capability of agriculture and its related industries to contribute to economic growth and social well-being. The priority areas for the ATC are: conservation and utilization of plant and animal genetic resources; research, development and extension of agricultural biotechnology; production, processing, marketing, distribution and consumption of agricultural products; plant and animal quarantine and pest management; agricultural finance systems; agricultural technology transfer and training; and sustainable agriculture and related environmental issues.

At Blake Island in 1993 APEC Economic Leaders gave a call to action to APEC members to manage their resources in such a way as to ensure that growth takes sustainability into consideration. APEC addresses *environment/sustainable development* as a cross-cutting issue that should be addressed by all APEC fora. Based on the outcomes of the two

previous APEC Environmental Ministers' Meetings (in Manila, 1996 and Toronto, 1997), APEC Ministers and Leaders in November 1998 in Kuala Lumpur outlined the priorities on sustainable development in five areas. They are: cleaner production; protection of the marine environment; sustainable cities; food, energy, and the environment in relation to economic and population growth (FEEEP); and the APEC Framework for Capacity Building Initiatives on Emergency Preparedness.

In 1997 APEC Economic Leaders made the commitment to integrate gender issues into the mainstream of APEC activities. As part of the commitment, the first APEC Ministerial Meeting on Women was held in Manila, 15-16 October 1998. The meeting made recommendations on how APEC should put in to operation the commitment to integrate women in its activities embodied in the Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC in 1999. Following this, the SOM Ad-Hoc Advisory Group for Gender Integration (AGGI) was formed to provide gender advice and expertise to the SOM and other APEC fora on the implementation of the Framework. The AGGI holds gender information sessions (GIS) for APEC fora. To date, GIS have been undertaken by 19 APEC fora, including the SOM and the APEC Secretariat. The AGGI has also developed gender criteria for use in APEC project proposals and approval and evaluation reports. It has also been overseeing the compilation of good practices of gender integration in APEC fora and economies. To complement the four critical tasks, the AGGI is also undertaking a sex-disaggregated data project. Meanwhile, it is also developing practical strategies that will further integrate gender issues into the APEC process.

### **Management Review**

A three-year management review of the APEC process was completed in 2000. Following the achievements in 1998 and 1999, additional measures to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the APEC process were endorsed and taken by both the Senior Officials and the Ministers in 2000. The major measures were:

Adoption of criteria for the establishment of new APEC fora,

Adoption of mechanisms for developing greater links with APEC Financial Ministers' process, and

Redesignation of: the PLGSME as the Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group; ATC as the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group; and the Infrastructure Workshop as the Group on Economic Infrastructure.

While the three-year management review program has been concluded successfully, APEC will continue its efforts to streamline the APEC process.

### **APEC Secretariat**

To support APEC's expanding activities, Ministers established a secretariat in Singapore in February 1993.

The APEC Secretariat serves as the central link and core support mechanism for the APEC process providing coordination, technical and advisory support to member economies and APEC fora. It also performs a project management role, assisting fora and economies with the oversight of over 200 APEC-funded projects.

The Secretariat is also responsible for media and public relations for APEC and plays an important role in supporting APEC's external communications and outreach efforts as

well as providing public affairs and media support to the host economy and APEC fora throughout the year. The Secretariat manages APEC's publishing program, maintains the main APEC website [www.apecsec.org.sg](http://www.apecsec.org.sg) which is the principal source of online information on APEC and operates the APEC Library as well as managing other APEC information resources and records.

The position of Executive Director of the Secretariat is at Ambassador level and is filled on secondment from the member economy chairing APEC that year. The Deputy Executive Director, who is from the economy next hosting APEC, takes over as Executive Director the following year. In 2001 the Executive Director is Ambassador Zhang Yan from the People's Republic of China and the Deputy Executive Director is Ambassador Alejandro de la Peña from Mexico. The Secretariat is staffed by professional officers seconded from APEC member economies and locally-recruited support staff.

## **APEC Publications**

The APEC Secretariat publishes a number of publications, many of which are available for download free of charge from the APEC Secretariat website [www.apecsec.org.sg](http://www.apecsec.org.sg). Others are available for purchase at a reasonable cost. Please feel free to e-mail any inquiries to [info@mail.apecsec.org.sg](mailto:info@mail.apecsec.org.sg).

### **Key APEC Documents 2000**

#### *APEC Secretariat*

*Key APEC Documents 2000* (previously *Selected APEC Documents*) is the seventh in a series produced by the APEC Secretariat to bring together in one publication the policy decisions and initiatives endorsed by APEC Leaders and Ministers.

Each year, in addition to the main APEC Ministerial and Economic Leaders' meetings, a number of sectoral ministerial meetings are held. The policy decisions and initiatives arising from those meetings form the basis for on-going work by APEC fora. *Key APEC Documents 2000* includes the APEC Leaders' Declaration in Brunei Darussalam, as well as Statements from the various ministerial meetings held during the year.

All documents contained in this and previous editions are accessible via the main APEC website at [www.apecsec.org.sg](http://www.apecsec.org.sg) which we encourage readers to visit.

### **2000 APEC Economic Outlook**

#### *Economic Committee*

The *2000 APEC Economic Outlook* reviews recent economic developments in the region and summarizes the short-term prospects of all APEC member economies. It confirms that the Asian financial crisis has been contained and economic recovery is now more prevalent in the APEC region. The *2000 Outlook* also pursues the new thinking on regional trading agreements (RTAs) and focuses on how the new regionalism can best serve the goal of multilateralism.

### **SOM 2000 Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation**

#### *ECOTECH Sub-committee*

The ECOTECH report provides a stocktake of ECOTECH activities across APEC fora. It includes assessments on the number and types of ECOTECH projects, the implementation

of ECOTECH initiatives, continued work on improving coordination of ECOTECH activities and information on the development of the ECOTECH Clearing House.

### **2000 CTI Annual Report to Ministers**

#### *Committee on Trade and Investment*

This report stocktakes the work of the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) and its sub-fora on carrying forward and coordinating APEC's work on Trade and Investment Liberalization and Facilitation. It outlines the Committee's accomplishments for the year with regard to the mandates laid down by the APEC Economic Leaders and attempts to put forth recommendations on priority areas for 2001.

### **Best Practice in Sport and Recreation for Tourism Development, 2001**

#### *Tourism Working Group*

The publication highlights examples of successful sports events within Asia-Pacific region that have created tremendous opportunities for tourism.

This publication of best practice case studies is intended to show the potential of combining tourism with sport and to:

- increase awareness of the potential of sports events to act as a vehicle and catalyst for greater tourism growth,
- help accelerate the growth of the tourism industry of member economies,
- stimulate strategic alliances among APEC economies in promoting tourism exchange through sports and recreation; and
- promote increased tourism to the destinations profiled.

### **Symposium for Collaborative Strategies for Multimedia and World Wide Web Production Skills Development, 2000**

#### *Telecommunications Working Group*

APEC, in conjunction with BT, the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) and Cisco held a symposium to address skill development strategies within the APEC economies, in support of the goal of equipping APEC societies with the necessary skills and resources to be active participants and contributors to the Asia-Pacific information infrastructure. The purpose of the symposium was to develop opportunities to increase multimedia skills and to bring together experts in the field to discuss ways in which APEC, government, industry and educational institutions can work together.

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

### ***APEC Business Advisory Council***

Facing Globalization the APEC Way: Report to the APEC Economic Leaders, 2000

### ***Committee on Trade and Investment***

A Blueprint of the APEC-Sub-committee in Customs Procedures: Meeting the Challenges of Modern Business Environment, 2000

### ***Economic Committee***

APEC Economies Beyond the Asian Crisis: Building the Future of APEC Economies "Move Forward on The New Economy and Entrepreneurship," 2000

Towards Knowledge-based Economies in APEC, 2000

Future of Asia Pacific Economies: Symposium Papers and Proceedings, 2000

***Energy Working Group***

1998 APEC Energy Statistics, 2000

1998 APEC Energy Handbook, 2000

Trade and Investment Liberalization in APEC: Economic and Energy Sector Impacts, 2000

***Marine Resource Conservation Working Group***

Assessment of Environmental Safety of Aquaculture Farms using Biochemical Indicators of Distress, 2000

***Group of Economic Infrastructure***

“Where It Stands” Defining APEC Infrastructure Agenda, 2000